

XQ83K1
Statement of Work for Student Services Contract
Gulf Ecology Division - Aquatic Exposures
Gulf Breeze, FL

1. Project Description:

The National Health and Environmental Effects Research Laboratory (NHEERL) is responsible for conducting studies of the effects of environmental stressors on ecosystem and human health. Endocrine disrupting chemicals (EDC's) are among the stressors of concern and the NHEERL is developing methodologies to assess chemicals for estrogenic and other endocrine effects. As a part of this effort, the Gulf Ecology Division is developing specific approaches to characterize the nature, likelihood and dose-response relationships involved in the disruption of endocrine pathways in aquatic species.

2. Description of Student Services:

The student will work within a multi-disciplinary research team and will provide technical laboratory support for research projects characterizing the effects of environmental stressors on aquatic vertebrate and invertebrate species.

Specific duties will include assisting research staff in (1) Conducting short and long-term flow-through exposures with fish and invertebrate species including monitoring and recording of physical parameters and biological observations; (2) Field collection of test organisms, and maintenance of healthy laboratory cultures of fish and invertebrates including necessary food organisms; (3) Fabrication of laboratory exposure systems, maintenance and monitoring of test systems during experiments and cleaning of exposure systems at study termination; and (4) Compilation and summarization of experimental data and literature references into organized computer files. General laboratory support duties may include maintaining research supplies and materials, routine maintenance of laboratory equipment, solution preparation, and other duties necessary to carry out the studies.

The student will perform duties, as requested, according to specifications and instructions provided by the mentor. Where appropriate, the student will maintain careful and accurate records in designated laboratory notebooks. These notebooks, and all other data produced under this order will be the property of the Environmental Protection Agency.

3. Required Expertise, Skills, Education and/or Experience:

The student needs to have completed all requirements for a B.S. or equivalent degree in biology, chemistry, ecology, environmental science, marine biology, zoology or a related field. The preferred student will have training and/or experience in general laboratory techniques, environmental studies, or aquaculture. The student will need to know basic laboratory safety requirements and will be given additional safety training at the Gulf Ecology Division.

4. Required Background Investigation and Suitability Determination:

Students under this contract are required to undergo a background check and check of FBI fingerprint files and a suitability determination by the Environmental Protection Agency. Students awarded a contract will have to complete a Standard Form 85 (SF-85) "Questionnaire for Non-Sensitive Positions" and SF-87 "Fingerprint Charts" (Attached to this Order). All completed forms will be submitted to the ORD, Mentor (insert mentor's name, address, and telephone number) at least 14 business days prior to reporting to work. Fingerprints will either be taken at the ORD duty station (upon reporting for work) or students will be notified to have their fingerprints taken at their local police department. If a background check reveals

information to indicate the student represents a risk to the interests of EPA and the national security, the contract may be terminated.

5. Description of Working Conditions:

Work will be performed in a laboratory. Students will be required to wear safety apparel and to closely observe safety requirements.

6. Duration and Compensation:

Work will begin on or about 1 October, 2003. The initial contract will be for one year with an option for an additional 12 months. The contract is for one full time (40 hours/week) student. The rate of compensation for this position is \$13.24 per hour which includes the cost of self-employment taxes for social security and Medicare.

7. Taxes:

The student is responsible for paying all Federal, State or local income taxes required as a result of income received under this order.

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